

SERVING BEFORE THE ALTAR

The Dong people of China are largely unknown to the world, yet are precious to God. Most of us will never even meet one Dong person, but we can still have a profound effect for the Gospel of Christ.

Prayer on behalf of the millions of Dong people who have not yet heard the good news of Jesus can break down barriers, open hearts, change lives, and allow us the privilege to join in the miraculous acts God will perform among them. This prayer guide is created to assist in that purpose.

This guide explores seven moments in the history of the Exodus from Egypt, attempting to relate to the Israelites, and applying those lessons to the Dong situation. The Lord has a great exodus planned for the Dong, leaving the slavery of animistic spirit worship and passing into the promised land of life eternal.

Let us join together in prayer for the Dong.

KINGDOM - of - PRIESTS

praying through Exodus
for the Dong people of China



so they may worship

The journey of the Israelites out of Egypt, the Exodus, was the primary salvation event in history until the coming of Christ. It is also one of the most telling pictures we have of the salvation to come.

We will spend a few days working through the events of the Exodus and apply them in prayer to the Dong people. To start off, let us pray through the main theme of God's message to Pharaoh: "Israel is my firstborn son. I commanded you to let him go, so he could worship me" (4:22-23). Then, in more than half of the warnings Moses gave to Pharaoh preceding the plagues, this theme is reiterated: "Let my people go, so they can worship me."

Right now, the Dong people are held captive. They are oppressed by the spirits they worship and by the belief system handed down from their ancestors. They are, spiritually, not free to worship the Lord. Let us with one voice, proclaim the same warning in prayer on behalf of the Dong.



Father,

We hear your words. You want the Dong people to worship you. We join together in prayer to proclaim your word in the name of Christ: let the Dong go, so they may worship you, Lord! Use our lips as your ready messenger and may it be done to your glory.



DO WE PROTEST?

Moses had to learn an early lesson in the Exodus process. God had already warned Moses of Pharaoh's response before Moses ever took a step in the door. Even so, after Moses's first request to Pharaoh, Pharaoh only increased the work quotas for the enslaved Israelites, in Exodus 5.

Then the Israelite foremen caught up with Moses to tell him to keep his mouth shut: "You have given them an excuse to kill us!" (5:21). Losing heart, Moses immediately "protested" to the Lord, "You have not even begun to rescue them!" (5:23).

We know ahead of time that the Lord intends to reach the Dong people. When something bad happens, or more accurately, when nothing seems to happen at all, we protest that God has not even begun to rescue the Dong.

Indeed, this is a matter of life and death for those still not rescued. Just as the Israelites said, "You have given them an excuse to kill us!", so all those living outside of Christ will receive punishment.

God's reply to all these things? "I will redeem you with mighty power and great acts of judgment."



Father,

We will continue in prayer for the Dong people. We will not lose heart when we face trouble or see no progress, rather, we move forward with the foreknowledge that your plan will cause trouble with those spiritual forces who hold the Dong captive. Yet, in the end, you will succeed. We look forward and pray for the "mighty power and great acts of judgment" among the Dong.



why SIGNS AND WONDERS?

It would have been a lot easier on everybody if God had allowed the Israelites to just leave Egypt in the first place. God hardened Pharaoh's heart. Why? God says in the first few verses of chapter seven that he did this so that he could multiply his miraculous signs and wonders.

What is the point? He causes more problems just so he can solve more problems? We are so accustomed to reading that phrase, we do not realize how strange it really is.

In verse 7:5, he states clearly his reason: so that the Egyptians "will realize that I am the Lord." The whole point is that God will receive glory. If he only wanted the Israelites out, he could have softened Pharaoh's heart from Moses and Aaron's first petition to Pharaoh.

God wants glory. God rightly deserves glory. In the work among the Dong people, God wants glory as well. Who will declare the glory of the Lord? Who is going to sing his praises for the things he does among them? If we do not, the very rocks will do so for us.

So, let us save those poor rocks their breath and do our part in honor of the One who is saving them.



Father of all, God,

We come to praise you for who you are: the father of the Dong people. You have planned their salvation from the beginning of the world and have already begun your work. Though we do not know how you will do it, we praise you for what you have done, what you are now doing, and what you are going to do.



DONE DEAL

Even more clearly than in chapter seven, the Lord again clearly states why he did what he did with the Egyptians. In chapter nine, he says, "I could have killed [all the Egyptians] by now...but I have let [them] live for this reason – that you might see my power and that my fame might spread throughout the earth."

God could have finished the end goal among the Egyptians any time he wanted. He could have caused all the plagues at once. He could have put up a smoke screen for the Israelites to sneak out without any plagues at all.

Those would not have accomplished his purpose though. He wanted to show the world that he was quite different from all the lifeless idols out there.

It is the same with the Dong people. God could have finished the work already. When we wonder why nothing is happening, we can continue praying with the firm knowledge that he will accomplish his will.

And as he says in chapter ten, "You will be able to tell wonderful stories to your children and grandchildren about the marvelous things I am doing among the Egyptians to prove that I am the Lord."



Father,

We look forward to the day we tell of your works among the Dong to our children and grandchildren, to watch their eyes grow wide to hear of the wonderful works of the Lord. We proclaim, in faith, the fact that you are in complete control and will accomplish your will. May all the glory go to the King of Kings for the victory.



BLOOD OF THE LAMB

Probably the most clear imagery of the Holy Lamb to come is the story of the first Passover. God had proven for all to see that he was far above all gods, so much so that he executed judgment against the gods of Egypt (12:12), a feat no other god could begin to try.

Now, in preparation for the final plague, God gives instructions for the Passover, a ceremony he himself will follow hundreds of years later. He will offer his spotless Lamb for the sins of all mankind, and when he sees the blood, his judgment will pass over those who claim it (12:13).

All sin deserves death, and fair judgment would place all sinners under a death sentence. God can overlook that sin only when the blood of the lamb is claimed, whether claimed by his chosen people before they walk to freedom from Egypt or by the Dong people who are passing from spiritual bondage into Christ's freedom.

The Lord will do many things to proclaim his power to the Dong people. He will make abundantly clear that he is the one and only God, above all other gods. A time will come for judgment, just as it did for the Egyptians. Let us pray that the Dong people will claim the blood.



Father,

We know that the Dong people do not yet claim the blood of the Lamb and will one day have to face their fair judgment. We ask for you to intercede on their behalf. Give them a chance to hear your Gospel, an opportunity to claim the blood of the Lamb over their sins.



HE KNOWS THEM

Why did God not choose the easy road? Why did he not just put the Israelites on the road to the promised land? Why did they have to head out into the desert?

"If the people are faced with a battle, they might change their minds and return to Egypt" (13:17). As it turns out, God knew them better than they knew themselves. We often see the people complaining in the desert, but they did not turn back; God knew they would really turn around if they had to make battle, which is what road travel would have meant.

Thus, he sent the pillar of cloud and fire. It not only provided direction for where to move, but when the Egyptians changed their minds and came out to kill the Israelites, the cloud was also the Lord's defense for them.

God also knows the Dong people. He knows them better than any missionary, better than any people group profile or strategy to reach them, in fact, better than they know themselves. God knows what they will need to accept him and what they need to grow in him. Let us turn to him and ask him to continue preparing exactly what the Dong people will need to believe him.



Father,

You understand the Dong people, know their needs, and know how to provide for them. We ask you to draw them out of their current slavery and help them find freedom in Christ. We know you have already planned to provide what they will need to turn to you and believe in you, and we come to praise you for your knowledge, understanding, and love.



KINGDOM OF PRIESTS

God has been proving who Yahweh is throughout the plagues and Exodus. He is a different kind of God, and a different kind of God develops a different kind of relationship with his people.

In preparation for the giving of the commandments, God says, "you will be to me a kingdom of priests, my holy nation" (19:6). Most nations had a few priests who communicated with the gods for the rest of the society. Yahweh is different: the whole kingdom is made up of priests.

In other words, he wants direct contact with everybody, instead of talking through a few select people. Israel either forgot or ignored that concept, but that is how God set up the new kingdom under Jesus, and is exactly the relationship he wants with the Dong people.

He does not want them to fear the unknown spiritual powers or seek the help of witch doctors. He wants them to know him and commune personally with him. He has given the life of his only son to establish that relationship.

Just as the climax of the Exodus was the giving of the covenant, so also is joining the kingdom of priests the climax of the new covenant.



King of All,

We see that you desire everyone to gain access to the King himself. You alone know the path to bring the Dong into the kingdom, and we pray that you will use our prayers to bring the Dong to a saving climax.



KINGDOM -of- PRIESTS

praying through Exodus
for the Dong people of China

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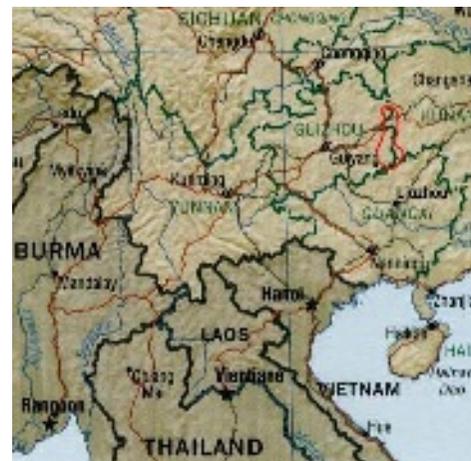
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For always current information on the Dong people and continually updated prayer requests, visit the DongTeam.org website or subscribe to the Prayer Journal e-mail updates on the website. This booklet and other Dong-related media are available for download if you want the computer files or for purchase if you would like printed materials.

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Where are the Dong?

The Dong people live in the mountains of Southwest China. They are located at the intersection of three provinces, Guizhou, Hunan, and Guangxi, with the majority of the population in Guizhou.

Though the lush mountains provide beautiful scenery, those same mountains are the primary reason the Dong people remain one of the last Chinese minorities to receive the Gospel. Distance from cities and difficulty in transportation have geographically isolated the Dong people from easy access to the message of Christ, until the last decade or so.

However, China's rapid development has accidentally helped solve this geographical access problem. High speed highways, though rarely running directly to Dong areas, have decreased travel time to reach them, and interconnected commerce has provided the motivation to build communication ties to the cities.

They grow closer every day.